Increase in Smokers and Tobacco users

1951. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite anti-smoking legislation in several States the number of smokers and tobacco users in the country is steadily increasing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is due to the gross insensitivity and casual approach of the enforcement agencies; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to curb it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The National Sample Survey estimates of tobacco consumption prevalence available for the years 1987-88 and 1993-94 indicate that there is actually a decline in tobacco consumption in the country.

(c) "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001", introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 intends to discourage the use of tobacco products.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments to take immediate necessary action to ensure prohibition of smoking in public places and to give wide publicity to the orders of the Supreme Court dated 2.11.2001 banning smoking in Public Places.

Proposals submitted by Government of Tripura

1952. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Tripura has submitted proposals in the form of projects for sanction of funds relating to strengthening of District Hospitals in Tripura, establishment of Modern Psychiatric Hospital at Agartala and strengthening of para-medical institute;

(b) where do these proposals stand now; and

(c) whether the required funds have been sanctioned as per projects?